



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

a

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,102	08/19/2003	Liam Holmes	81762/311	6493
7590	08/04/2004		EXAMINER	
Nixon Peabody LLP Clinton Square P.O. Box 31051 Rochester, NY 14603-1051			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,102	HOLMES ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/19/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 4, 10, 15 are indefinite because the specification and the drawing do not disclose that the plate has both a spring and a biasing element. For purpose of examination, Examiner assumes that the plate has one of a spring and a biasing element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thenaisie et al. (5,879,194).

In regard to claim 1, Thenaisie et al. discloses an electrical connection system, the system comprising: a first electrical connector 1 with a first housing 10; a second electrical connector 7 with a second housing 70, the second housing 70 having a projection opening 90a along one surface; a plate 2 connected to the first housing 10,

Art Unit: 2833

the plate 2 having a projection 24, when the first housing 10 is connected to the second housing 70 to couple the first electrical connector 1 to the second electrical connector 7 the projection 24 is detachably engaged with the projection opening 90a to detachably lock the first electrical connector 1 to the second electrical connector 7 (see fig. 5).

In regard to claim 2, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the second electrical connector 7 and the plate 2 have two or more of the projection 24 and the projection opening 90a used to lock the second electrical connector 7 to the first electrical connector 1.

In regard to claim 3, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 has a neutral position where the projection 24 is seated in the projection opening 90a (fig. 5) and a release position where the projection 24 is withdrawn from the projection opening 90a to unlock the second electrical connector 7 from the first electrical connector 1 (fig. 6).

In regard to claim 4, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 comprises: a first section 20 connected to the first electrical connector 1; a second section 22 having the projection 24, and a biasing element (the bend portion locates between 24 and 25) connected between the first and second sections 20, 22.

In regard to claim 5, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 has a neutral position where the projection 24 is seated in the projection opening 90a (fig. 5) and a

Art Unit: 2833

release position where the projection 24 is withdrawn from the projection opening 90a to unlock the second electrical connector 7 from the first electrical connector 1 (fig. 6).

In regard to claim 6, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the first electrical connector 1 is a male electrical connector (based on pin 61) and the second electrical connector 7 is a female electrical connector.

In regard to claim 7, Thenaisie et al. discloses a method of making an electrical connection system, the method comprising: providing a first electrical connector 1 with a first housing 10; providing a second electrical connector 7 with a second housing 70, the second housing 70 having a projection opening 90a along one surface; connecting a plate 2 to the first housing 10, the plate 2 having a projection 24, when the first housing 10 is connected to the second housing 70 to couple the first electrical connector 1 to the second electrical connector 7 the projection 24 is detachably engaged with the projection opening 90a to detachably lock the first electrical connector 1 to the second electrical connector 7.

In regard to claim 8, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the second electrical connector 7 and the plate 2 have two or more of the projection 24 and the projection opening 90a used to lock the second electrical connector 7 to the first electrical connector 1.

In regard to claim 9, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 has a neutral position where the projection 24 is seated in the projection opening 90a (fig. 5) and a release position where the projection 24 is withdrawn from the projection opening 90a to unlock the second electrical connector 7 from the first electrical connector 1 (fig. 6).

In regard to claim 10, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 comprises: a first section 20 connected to the first electrical connector 1; a second section 22 having the projection 24, and a biasing element (the bend portion locates between 24 and 25) connected between the first and second sections 20, 22.

In regard to claim 11, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 has a neutral position where the projection 24 is seated in the projection opening 90a (fig. 5) and a release position where the projection 24 is withdrawn from the projection opening 90a to unlock the second electrical connector 7 from the first electrical connector 1 (fig. 6).

In regard to claim 12, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the first electrical connector 1 is a male electrical connector (based on pin 61) and the second electrical connector 7 is a female electrical connector.

In regard to claim 13, Thenaisie et al. discloses a method for securing electrical connectors, the method comprising: coupling a first electrical connector 1 which is connected to a plate 2 to a second electrical connector 7; aligning at least one

Art Unit: 2833

projection 24 on a plate 2 with a projection opening 90a in the second electrical connector 7; and locking the second electrical connector 7 to the first electrical connector 1 with the engagement of the projection 24 with the projection opening 90a (see fig. 5).

In regard to claim 14, Thenaisie et al. discloses a step of pivoting the plate 2 (see fig. 6) from a neutral position where the projection 24 is seated in the projection opening 90a to a release position where the projection 24 is withdrawn from the projection opening 90a to unlock the second electrical connector 7 from the first electrical connector 1.

In regard to claim 15, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 comprises: a first section 20 connected to the first electrical connector 1; a second section 22 having the projection 24, and a biasing element (the bend portion locates between 24 and 25) connected between the first and second sections 20, 22.

In regard to claim 16, Thenaisie et al. discloses that the plate 2 has a neutral position where the projection 24 is seated in the projection opening 90a (fig. 5) and a release position where the projection 24 is withdrawn from the projection opening 90a to unlock the second electrical connector 7 from the first electrical connector 1 (fig. 6).

Art Unit: 2833

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


THO D.TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
07/30/04